The Best of TMC Mail

Selected bits and pieces of choice mail messages
flying around Thinking Machines during 1987

Collected and distributed as a public service by your friendly Systems Group

December 1987

LANGUAGES....

New languages, old languages and how we learn about them

Received: from pozzo by Think.COM; Thu, 11 Jun 87 16:12:42 EDT
Received: by pozzo; Thu, 11 Jun 87 16:12:14 edt
Date: Thu, 11 Jun 87 16:12:14 edt
From: charrett@think.com
Message-Id: <8706112012.AA03217@pozzo>
To: staff
Subject: Another LISP

What's all this talk about Population Lisp? Is this a special flavor of Lisp for running the life game? Or does it elude to the VAST over-population of Lisp flavors already in existence.

Do we really need another Lisp?

Signed,
Rosanna Rosanna-Anna-Danna

Yet another LISP...

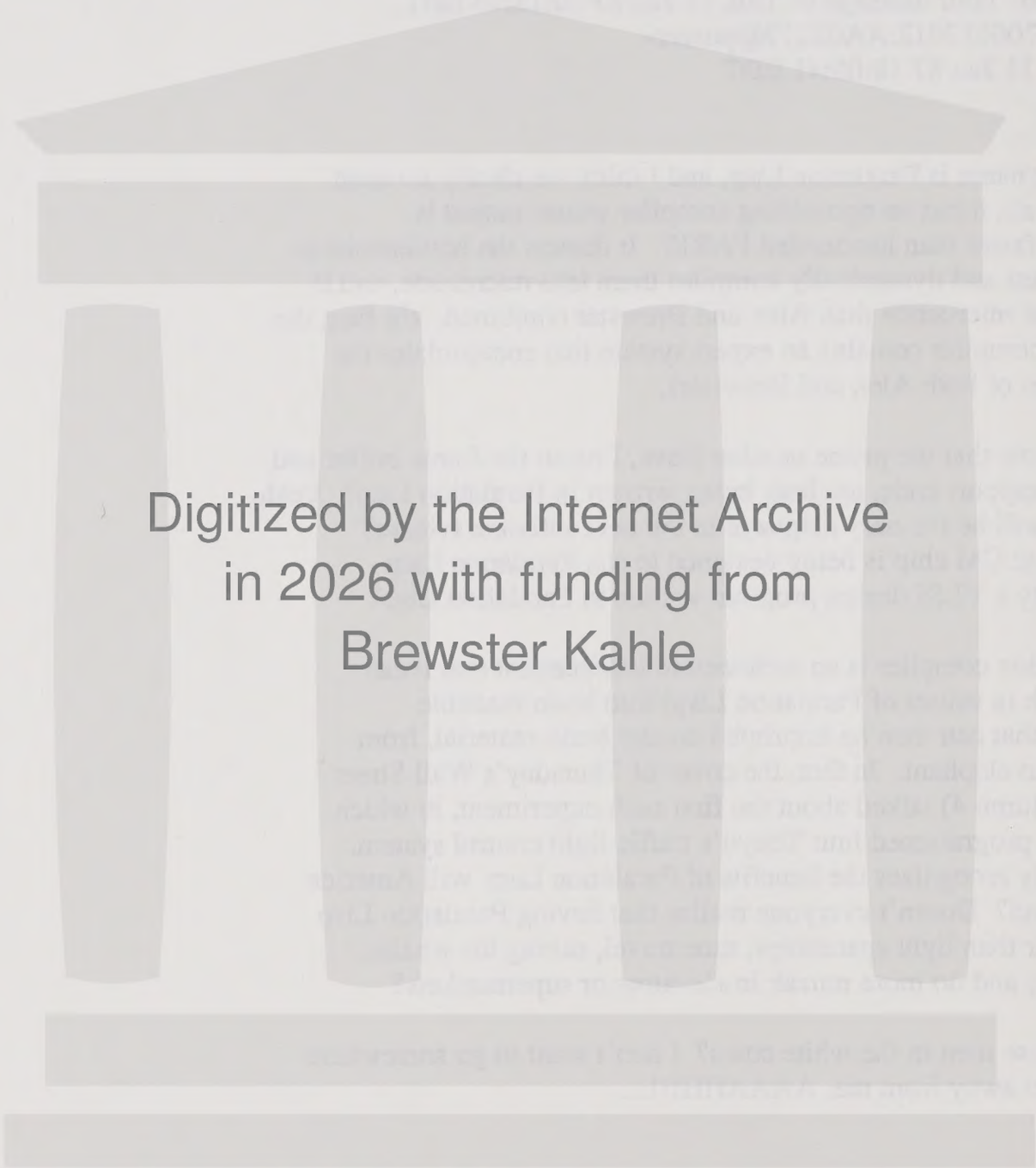
Received: from godot.think.com by Think.COM; Thu, 11 Jun 87 18:05:50 EDT
Received: by godot.think.com; Thu, 11 Jun 87 18:05:43 EDT
From: gary@think.com
Message-Id: <8706112205.AA11732@godot.think.com>
To: staff, charrett@think.com
Subject: Re: Another LISP
In-Reply-To: Your message of Thu, 11 Jun 87 16:12:14 EDT.
<8706112012.AA03217@pozzo>
Date: Thu, 11 Jun 87 18:05:41 EDT

The correct name is Paralation Lisp, and I think we clearly do need it. First of all, it has an optimizing compiler whose output is ALWAYS faster than handcoded PARIS. It detects the bottlenecks in your program and dynamically compiles them into microcode, and it writes better microcode than Alex and Brewster combined. (In fact, the Paralation compiler contains an expert system that encapsulates the best features of both Alex and Brewster).

Did you know that the prime number sieve, I mean the frame buffer and DataVault support code, are both being written in Paralation Lisp? Yeah, and that it will be the only language in the next software release? That the next CM chip is being designed to run Paralation Lisp directly? By a VLSI design program written in Paralation Lisp?

The paralation compiler is so architecture independent that it can turn English (a subset of Paralation Lisp) into brain readable microcode that can then be imprinted on any brain material, from cockroach to elephant. In fact, the cover of Thursday's Wall Street Journal (column 4) talked about the first such experiment, in which ducks were programmed into Tokyo's traffic light control system. Japan clearly recognizes the benefits of Paralation Lisp, will America be left behind? Doesn't everyone realize that having Paralation Lisp means faster than light spaceships, time travel, saving the whales, immortality, and no more muzak in elevators or supermarkets?

Who are those men in the white coats? I don't want to go somewhere peaceful, get away from me, AAAAHH!!!....



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https://archive.org/details/bestoftmcmail00unse_0

From: pat@think.com
To: staff
Subject: C course today 4-6pm in 5th Fl Conf Rm.
Date: Tue, 30 Jun 87 13:43:37 EDT

The renowned Sam Kendall will give a talk entitled

"C And Other One-Letter Curse Words"

from 4pm to 6pm today in the 5th floor conference room. This is designed to be an introduction for those C-less people who wish to attend tomorrow's course in C*, also to be given by Mr. Kendall.

Date: Thu, 3 Sep 87 10:22:28 EDT
From: marantz
To: marantz, staff
Subject: C* documents available

See? Stars!!

Yes, folks, the official (customer-release) documents for C* are now available. Help yourself to a copy from the bookshelf outside the Black Hole of Documentation, 3rd floor, past the Coke machine, within slam-dunk distance of the basketball hoop, etc. . .

The set consists of three documents in one black binder: Release Notes, Reference Manual (the language definition), and User's Guide (the O/S interface).

--Janet

Quote of the Day

From: bags@Think.COM
To: staff
Subject: Quote of the Day
Date: Tue, 15 Dec 87 12:07:15 EST

Jim Bailey to Digicon yesterday, as recounted by David Orr:

"Y'all take A, an' y'all take B, an' y'all stuff it into C..."

From: Willie Lim <willie@think.com>
To: staff
Cc: willie, third-floor-people
Subject: Saw this note on the wall in the 6th floor Xerox room
Date: Sun, 26 Jul 87 14:12:13 EDT

"Judy,
Where the studs?"

"On the third floor, mostly."

(-: Yours innocently, :-)
Willie

P.S. The note has been up there for quite a while. It's only today that I saw the written reply to the question.

Date: Mon, 10 Aug 87 22:03 EDT
From: Alex Vasilevsky <Alex@Aquinas.Think.COM>
Subject: quote of the day
To: staff@Aquinas.Think.COM
Message-Id: <870810220307.6.ALEX@FEUERBACH.THINK.COM>

Me: "That stupid error handler, the only way out of it to do m- c- abort"

Dan: "In the error handler, no one can hear you scream"

-Alex V.

Date: Wed, 19 Aug 87 13:56 EDT
From: J.P. Massar <massar@godot.think.com>
Subject: Quote of the day
To: staff@Think.COM

"In four or five microseconds you can't do anything!"

-- Alex

From: marsha@Think.COM
To: staff
Subject: re Quote of the Day
Date: Wed, 19 Aug 87 14:20:19 EDT

"In 4 or 5 microseconds, you can't do anything" - baby hummingbirds would not agree.

Date: Wed, 26 Aug 87 11:09 EDT
From: Mike Drumheller <MIKE@Aquinas.Think.COM>
Subject: Quote of the Day
To: staff@Aquinas.Think.COM

Eddie and Brian were playing ping-pong, Eddie was using a *new* paddle...

Mike: "New paddle, Eddie?"
Eddie: "Yeah, just bought it."
Mike: "Using petty cash?"
Eddie: (utterly sans pause) "Eddie cash."

From: earls@Think.COM
To: staff
Cc: earls
Subject: Conversation on an elevator
Date: Wed, 16 Sep 87 08:33:18 EDT

Judy: How was your weekend?

jje: Ok. I went to the Patriots game on Sunday.

Judy: Really? Mike McGarty said he got soaked and left at halftime.

jje: I know, my sneakers are still wet.

Judy: (stern voice) Well just keep them out of the microwave.

Date: Wed, 21 Oct 87 11:15:13 EDT
From: shn@Think.COM
To: staff
Subject: quote of the day

Putting noops in my microcode at various places seems to have no effect.

from a bug report to a software mailing list. (for the non-technical staff, noops are commands telling the computer to do nothing)

;-)
Sam N

p.s. I am not tring to make fun of the sender of the message, I just found funny that the first thing we do around here is insert noops.

Date: Tue, 10 Nov 87 17:36 EST
From: Jim Salem <Salem@Think.COM>
Subject: Our resident android
To: tmc-interest@Think.COM
Moon: 4 days, 22 hours, 26 minutes since the full moon.

"Why say it in English if you can say it in code ?"

- Cliff Lasser

Date: Wed, 11 Nov 87 14:53 EST
From: Sarah Ferguson <SASHA@Aquinas.Think.COM>
Subject: Another Quote of the Day
To: staff@Aquinas.Think.COM

Seen on the side of a semi near Lechmere:

G.O.D.Guaranteed
[in big bold letters]Overnight
Delivery
1-800-DIAL-GOD

-Sarah

Date: Wed, 4 Nov 87 14:55:30 EST
From: rose@Think.COM
To: staff
Subject: Quote of the Day

"It's not an algorithm. It's just a piece of C code."

-- Sam Kendall

(Commenting on the ctags program.)

From: craig@Think.COM
To: staff
Subject: Quote of the Day
Date: Tue, 10 Nov 87 13:28:30 EST

(In reference to timesheets)

> "One? One? I refuse to go on a guilt trip about only one!"

Systems Facility Plans

You'd better watch out

Date: Thu, 23 Jul 87 15:06:30 EDT
From: cal@think.com
To: stiles@zarathustra.think.com
Cc: Dick, systems
In-Reply-To: stiles@think.com's message of Thu, 23 Jul 87 08:24:33 EDT
Subject: sun screens and anti glare coating

> Date: Thu, 23 Jul 87 08:24:33 EDT
> From: stiles@think.com
>
> > Date: Wed, 22 Jul 87 19:13:44 EDT
> > From: cal@zarathustra.think.com
> >
> > I'm right now working in an office that has the shades pulled so that the screens are readable. What's the point of having windows if the light makes screens unreadable.
>
> I'll see about getting your windows removed.

Don't have my windows removed!! .... I like sunlight.

Date: Fri, 17 Jul 87 15:07:03 EDT
From: stiles@think.com
To: systems
Subject: a bag on a kluge

Well, I haven't created any miserable kluges for at least a couple of hours, so Livy and I just figured out a good one. It seems that they are about to receive a 32K CM1. The problem is, it won't fit into their computer room.

Therefore, LaGuardia.

Which is to say, I am planning on setting up new machines for the second floor using the power, etc we had for the training course, in the general vicinity of where those LISPMs were.

La Guardia, son of bull pen.

Jim

Date: Fri, 11 Sep 87 14:35:33 EDT
From: stiles
To: mcgehee@Think.COM
Subject: lispms for training

> From: mcgehee@Think.COM
> Date: Fri, 11 Sep 87 11:35:50 EDT
>
> how bout Bruces Lispm??? Maybe it could be "gone" for a week without anyone noticing too much. I will definately take Rousseau, that leaves you to battle with whoever for the 3rd. Just give me a name. (*@&@6*& I hate this, don't you?)
>
> --nancy

No actually I love this. I also enjoy whips and chains.

Date: Mon, 28 Sep 87 08:12:23 EDT
From: stiles
To: cal
Cc: systems
In-Reply-To: cal's message of Sun, 27 Sep 87 23:57:38 EDT
Subject: fafnir

> Date: Sun, 27 Sep 87 23:57:38 EDT
> From: cal
>
> If fafnir is supposed to be a general purpose timesharing machine, could we move some memory from brigit to it? Then, I'll be more inclined to run lisp over there!
> Thanx -Cliff

Cliff,
I know that you may find this hard to believe, but general time sharing is not really the same thing as a dedicated LISP engine - yes, there are people out there who do not hack LISP. It is even rumored that there are even a few who don't know exactly what LISP is, although I consider this story to be questionable.
Jim

Date: Sun, 23 Aug 87 14:56:24 EDT
From: rst
To: gls
Cc: systems, gls
In-Reply-To: gls's message of Sat, 22 Aug 87 16:19:53 EDT
Subject: "Welcome" banner on Zarathustra

> In this light, we may want to remove the line that says "Welcome to Zarathustra". Sigh. The world is getting worse and worse.
>
> --Guy

Some suggestions, in my usual bad taste:

"This is Zarathustra. Trespassers will be executed."

No? How about:

"This is Zarathustra. Beware the attack modem."

No? How about:

"This is Zarathustra. Trespassers will be identified, their credit card numbers found out, and embarassing purchases will be made on their accounts."

No? How about:

"This is Zarathustra. This call is being traced. We know where you live."

No? How about:

"Thus spake Zarathustra: We have ways of making you talk ..."

No, the guys in white suits aren't my friends. I've never seen them before. And I don't want to go to "a quiet place." Hands off! Aaaaargh ...

Flame Protection
or
Bugs and Related Excuses

Date: Thu, 11 Jun 87 14:47 EDT
From: carlf@godot.think.com
Sender: gary@godot.think.com
Subject: Failed to save out band
To: mike@think.com
Cc: systems@think.com

Anaximander's FEP melted down to a heap of
radioactive slag during the disk-save. It cannot be booted.
Symbolics has been called and is sending a repairman by
express snail.

Despondently,

--carlf

Date: Wed, 16 Sep 87 07:43:35 EDT
From: stiles
To: CARLF@Aquinas.Think.COM
Cc: systems@Think.COM, vision@Think.COM
Subject: Hardware bug on Anaximander color frame buffer

> Date: Tue, 15 Sep 87 17:38 EDT
> From: Carl Richard Feynman <CARLF@Aquinas.Think.COM>
>
> When the color screen on Anaximander is zoomed in by more than four to one,
> and the rightmost pixel on any row has its second-most-significant bit
> equal to that row gets a purple band on it, and a wiggly distortion.
>
> --carlf

If that is the bug that I think it is, it is known - fixed in rev n+1.

I hope that you can find love in your heart for wiggly purple
distortion.

Jim

Received: from vesta.think.com by Think.COM; Tue, 30 Jun 87 19:00:04 EDT
Received: by vesta.think.com; Tue, 30 Jun 87 18:59:58 EDT
Date: Tue, 30 Jun 87 18:59:58 EDT
From: sam@zarathustra.think.com
Message-Id: <8706302259.AA03900@vesta.think.com>
To: daves@zarathustra.think.com
Cc: systems, daves
In-Reply-To: daves@think.com's message of Tue, 30 Jun 87 16:54:34 edt
<8706302054.AA05742@pozzo>
Subject: Re: Man strangeness == broken binaries , "fixed" now

> Date: Tue, 30 Jun 87 16:54:34 edt
> From: daves@think.com
>
> Along with a host of others trying to use man today and failing, I've
> been wondering why it should break. Seems that most of /usr/ucb on
> Godot was remade around 9am today. While I see no obvious reason that
> this should break "man", I dragged the binary over from Z, mv'd the
> existing version to man.broken and installed Z's version.
> Man is now usuable again.
>
> There do seem to be some changes in the source in /usr/src/ucb dealing
> with MANPATH, but I can't be sure that was what broke the new version.
>
> Dying to hear the inside poop,
> Dave S.

Once upon a time (Jan 31, in fact) I made a minor hack to the man command, saving the old version in RCS. (Get version 1.1 of man.c and you will have the original source.) The hack was to have man interpret the PAGER environment variable, so that I could use less(1), which is far superior to col(1)+more(1), with man. I compiled my hacked version and found that it couldn't find man pages. At that point I compiled the original version, the one that predated my hacks, and found that it couldn't find the man pages either! Is that an inside poop or what?

At that point I gave up and forgot about it, leaving my hacked-but-no-more-broken-than-before version in place. I may have sent a letter to systems about it before forgetting about it. I just now went back and checked my version into RCS; it's now v1.2. If someone fixes this I encourage that person to start with my version, since it doesn't add significant complication and didn't break anything, but it does add functionality.

In short, I shot 'im, officer, but honest, 'e was already dead when I pulled the trigger! I'll bet somebody else shot 'im first without using RCS! Pull the original source off of the Berkeley distribution tape, I say -- 'angin's too good for 'im.

--Sam

Date: Thu, 23 Jul 87 14:30:56 EDT
From: rst@zarathustra.think.com
To: braca@zarathustra.think.com
Cc: krnl@zarathustra.think.com, marketing@zarathustra.think.com,
stiles@zarathustra.think.com, systems@zarathustra.think.com
In-Reply-To: braca@zarathustra.think.com's message of Thu, 23 Jul 87 13:08:03 EDT
<8707231708.AA23790@thornton.think.com>
Subject: document retrieval meeting agenda

> Date: Thu, 23 Jul 87 13:08:03 EDT
> From: braca@zarathustra.think.com
>
> We seem to be not considering a VAX as front end to this system instead of
> a lispm. Advantages I see are built-in time-sharing on the front end, and
> we are likely to have some sort of CM time-sharing on the VAX before long.
> Don't we have to do this anyway for Dow Jones? Or is the code so grody or
> difficult to port that we are only considering quick-fix plans? I am sure
> many of us on the VAX/Cm project would like to get our feet wet appliction-
> wise on such a useful project.
> _Mike

This is a good issue for Jim's meeting next week. In some ways, a VAX would be a nice thing to have: it has higher bandwidth disk I/O, higher ethernet bandwidth, and in general crashes less often. (Brewster will correct me if I'm wrong, I'm sure). However, there are a couple of problems we'd have to deal with.

First off, the existing document retrieval system is indeed difficult to port. It is written in Zetalisp, not Common Lisp, and some of the code is highly dependent on the operating-system level idiosyncracies of Lisp Machines (in particular, the moral equivalent of UNIX raw device drivers, which we needed to get any kind of speed at all out of the disks, but also the semantics of the FEP file system).

We will have to build a VAX-based document retrieval system (in C) for Dow Jones, but this is a substantial project --- enough so that we are presently interviewing for the head of a five-man applications development team to do the dirty work. (If we can have this done in a month, an awful lot of people in KRNL will be breathing easier :-). At any rate, it isn't trivial.

One last remark --- while the code for the lispm document retrieval system was developed under severe time pressure, and parts of it are indeed "grody", it DOES WORK; I'm not sure why using it would be a "quick fix".

I'm wearing asbestos; flame away!!!

rst

Date: Tue, 27 Oct 87 23:43:28 est
From: John Rose <rose@Think.COM>
To: cal@Think.COM
Cc: gmacs-hackers, systems
In-Reply-To: cal@Think.COM's message of Tue, 27 Oct 87 20:55:48 EST
Subject: Emacs garbage bindings

> Date: Tue, 27 Oct 87 20:55:48 EST
> From: cal@Think.COM
>
> > Date: Tue, 27 Oct 87 18:59:10 est
> > From: John Rose <rose@Think.COM>
> >
> > What is this. It shows up in the new Emacs:
> > (lookup-key shell-mode-map "\C-cm")
> > ==>
> > macro-expand-1-for-inferior-lisp-mode
> >
> > (emacs-version)
> > ==>
> > "GNU Emacs 18.49.16 of Wed Oct 21 1987 on pozzo (berkeley-unix)"
> >
> > Get rid of it. Only bind keys like that in setup functions which the
> > user can elect not to call. I don't want it (1) because
> > macro-expand-1-for-inferior-lisp-mode is not defined in my world,
> > and (2) I bind that key globally to something called rmail-check-mail,
> > and so that function is shadowed in shell buffers.
> >
> > -- John
>
> That's interesting. I never did anything to load my hacks into the default
> emacs. It's even stranger that the keybinding should be there without the
> function. I will admit I was thinking about doing it, but I didn't have
> the time to do it.

Well, someone did. I just did gmacs -q (no init-file loading) and performed the lookup-key, with the same results. Who's been fiddling with the site file? Or the shell-mode code?

Oh for the days of non-customizability! Monolithic binaries! Paleolithic user interfaces! No sources! Shelves full of hardcopy manuals! You always knew what you were getting! :-}

-- John

The Outside World

Bits and pieces from the outside

Received: from polycarp by Think.COM via CHAOS; Wed, 30 Sep 87 09:27:22 EDT
Date: Wed, 30 Sep 87 09:29 EDT
From: Jim Salem <Salem@Aquinas.Think.COM>
To: tmc-interest@Aquinas.Think.COM
Moon: 11 hours, 14 minutes since the first quarter of the moon.

We will soon be installing metal detectors at all entraces.

-- jim

Received: from MC.LCS.MIT.EDU by Think.COM; Tue, 29 Sep 87 18:43:04 EDT
Received: from CCC.MIT.EDU by MC.LCS.MIT.EDU via Chaosnet; 29 SEP 87 18:29:25 EDT
Date: 29 Sep 1987 18:31:26-EDT
From: bostic%okeeffe@berkeley.edu@mit-ccc.arpa
Received: from MC.LCS.MIT.EDU by MIT-CCC via telepathy; 29 Sep 87 18:20-EST
Received: from okeeffe.Berkeley.EDU (TCP 20010101003) by MC.LCS.MIT.EDU 29 Sep 87 18:02:24 EDT
Received: by okeeffe.Berkeley.EDU (5.58/1.14)
id AA16336; Tue, 29 Sep 87 15:00:19 PDT
Date: Tue, 29 Sep 87 15:00:19 PDT
From: bostic%okeeffe@berkeley.edu (Keith Bostic)
Message-Id: <8709292200.AA16336@okeeffe.Berkeley.EDU>
To: /dev/null@okeeffe.berkeley.edu
Subject: Bullets for Bytes

Bullets for Bytes

PASSAIC TWP. -- A Gillette man was arrested at his home last Thursday night after he fired eight bullets at his home computer, according to police.

The man, Michael A. Case, 35, of 64 Summit Ave., was arrested shortly after 11 p.m., at his house, when police said they received a report that shots were fired. They arrived at the home to find a .44 Magnum automatic handgun and a shot-up IBM personal computer with a Princeton Graphics System monitor.

The monitor screen was blown out by the blasts and its inner workings were visible, Lt. Donald Van Tassel said on Monday. The computer, which had bullet holes in its hardware, was hit four times while four more bullet holes were found in various areas next to the computer, Van Tassel said.

"The only thing he (Case) said was that he was mad at his computer so he shot it," Van Tassel said.

The handgun, which the lieutenant identified as an Israeli Arms Desert Eagle .44, has "a lot of firepower," he said. "It's a big gun." Case used hollow-point, or dum-dum, bullets, h

Date: Thu, 23 Jul 87 14:32:35 EDT
From: ortiz@zarathustra.think.com
To: staff
Subject: [Hehir@RIVERSIDE.SCRC.Symbolics.COM: in the news...]
Zippy-Says: Kids, the seven basic food groups are GUM, PUFF PASTRY, PIZZA,
PESTICIDES, ANTIBIOTICS, NUTRA-SWEET and MILK DUDS!!

Date: Thu, 23 Jul 87 11:10 EDT
From: David H. Kaufman <Sr.Kaufman@speech.mit.edu>
To: pinko@speech.mit.edu
Cc: ortiz@think.com
Zippy-Says: Yow! I want to mail a bronzed artichoke to Nicaragua!

From: Scott Cyphers <Cyphers@YUKON.SCRC.Symbolics.COM>
Subject: [Hehir@RIVERSIDE.SCRC.Symbolics.COM: in the news...]
To: sr.kaufman%speech@MIT-AI.ARPA, sr.pitrelli%speech@MIT-AI.ARPA

From: Sally Hehir <Hehir@RIVERSIDE.SCRC.Symbolics.COM>
Subject: in the news...
To: fun@RIVERSIDE.SCRC.Symbolics.COM, liberals@RIVERSIDE.SCRC.Symbolics.COM

"If the congressional committee keeps digging, eventually they might discover a link between Ronald Reagan and the presidency."

- Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt

From: dominic@Think.COM
To: staff
Cc: dominic
Subject: Quote of the week
Date: Tue, 18 Aug 87 07:58:07 EDT

Taken from U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT:

"I'm just glad I wasn't sitting down----I think I would have died."

Laurie Lamothe of Toronto after a 6-foot boa constrictor, a pet from a neighbor's apartment, poked its head out of her toilet bowl, then retreated down the pipe and disappeared when animal-control officers tried to catch it.

Date: Fri, 7 Aug 87 17:46:16 edt
From: Michael S. Littman <mlittman@Think.COM>
To: staff
Subject: Book Review

I came across the following book review in the Periodic Tome
of Useless Information:

"Compile and Run- Program Your Way to Physical Fitness", by Frederico Votostes, Bololand Press, 1987.

In his book "Compile and Run- Program Your Way to Physical Fitness", Vostotes suggests yet another potential exercise fad. However, in this reviewer's opinion, this scheme has more to offer than your average "do-this-1000-times" exercise program.

Votsotes focuses on Computer Operators- a group of people often neglected in the current push for physical fitness. His thesis is simple: Computer Operators spend much of their time sitting down in front of terminals. Much of this time can be spent waiting for the computer to perform some intensive computation, like compiling. His solution: when the computer is busy- jog in place!

In the book, Vostostes explains how to warm up during cold-boots, check your pulse during system tests, and run during compiles. He promises that on any machine as slow as a Vax, you will begin to see results in less than 30 CPU-hours. And this promise is backed by a money-back guarantee.

I highly recommend Mr. Votostes' book. It gives new meaning to the phrase "exercise program".

-MSL

TMC Meets the Press

Date: Thu, 15 Oct 87 13:10 EDT
From: George Robertson <George@Aquinas.Think.COM>
Subject: Quote of the Day
To: staff@Think.COM

>From the Dow Jones Corporate News announcement about the purchase of two CM's:

"The Connection Machine's tremendous computational power, combined with its ability to understand English commands, makes it particularly suited to ..."

Wow!

Date: Tue, 20 Oct 87 10:01:49 EDT
From: mjab@Think.COM
To: staff
Subject: The view from Fresh Pond

Mark Rathsack, who was a summer student here this year, ran into a recruiter from BBN at a job fair at his school...

.
.
.

For grins and giggles, I would like to relate an experience to you about Career Day here at Michigan Tech. Carrer Day is a day when a number of technical companies come to MTU to show off their company and take resumes. BBN was there (developers of the BUTTERFLY parallel processing system), and when I asked if they ever heard of Thinking Machines, the sales representative referred to TMC as "a minor competitor."

.
.
.

Date: Fri, 13 Feb 87 14:54:57 EST
From: nesheim@think.com
To: staff
Subject: more impressions of the Connection Machine (from netnews)

From: webb@webb.applicon.UUCP
Newsgroups: rec.arts.movies
Subject: Re: Computer Ludicrousness in Movies
Date: 30 Jan 87 15:49:00 GMT

>>1.VAST arrays of _unlabeled_ flashing lights.
>Ever seen a Connection Machine? Its face is a big array of LEDs,
>indicating which of the processors are currently running.

However, engineers of Thinking Machines, the manufactures of the Connection Machine, have been quoted as saying that while the lights do preform a minimally useful function as processor status displays, they were primarily put there to for marketing reasons, ie to impress the customers. And so the myth that all computers are covered with huge amounts of blinking lights is perpetuated...

Peter Webb.

{allegra|decvax|mit_eddie|utzoo}!linus!raybed2!applicon!webb
or {amd|bbncca|cbosgd|wjh12|ihnp4|yale}!ima!applicon!webb

My employers pay for my time; my opinions are my own.

----- End Forwarded Message -----

Received: from botolph by Godot.Think.COM via CHAOS; Sat, 14 Feb 87 16:31:59 EST
Date: Sat, 14 Feb 87 16:33 EST
From: Danny Hillis <danny@AQUINAS.THINK.COM>
Subject: Relpy to more impressions of the Connection Machine (from netnews)
To: nesheim@think.com
Cc: staff@Think.COM
In-Reply-To: <8702131954.AA02292@erato.Think.COM>
Message-Id: <870214163329.2.DANNY@BOTOLPH.THINK.COM>

> >Ever seen a Connection Machine? Its face is a big array of LEDs,
> >indicating which of the processors are currently running.
>
> ... engineers of Thinking Machines, the manufactures of the Connection
> Machine, have been quoted as saying that while the lights do preform a
> minimally useful function as processor status displays, they were a
primarily put there for marketing reasons...

Nonsense. Marketing people hate such idle flashyness. The lights are there because we love them . -Danny Hillis

Date: Wed, 25 Feb 87 21:32:59 EST
From: Michael Berry <mjab@think.com>
To: tmc-interest
Subject: A Machine Who Thinks: The Connection Machine.

I only subscribe to three magazines. The Economist did a little piece on the Connection Machine ages ago. This month it is the Whole Earth Review (nee Co-Evolution Quarterly) that has taken notice of us. I am looking forward to my next issue of Radical America!

The Whole Earth article is an interview by editor and alternative press folk hero, Stuart Brand with Danny Hillis. The article inside (pp. 108-115) is called "Implications of a Truly New Machine." Stuart seems to have swallowed every line Danny fed him. Pretty Groovy! /Michael

Date: Thu, 26 Feb 87 12:33 EST
From: Guy Steele <gls@aquinas.think.com>
Subject: In the news
To: tmc-interest@godot.think.com
Cc: gls@think.com

Buried in an article (Datamation, February 15, 1987) about Multiflow Computer Inc. and their new VLIW architecture is a comparison to other architectures, from which this is excerpted:

Intel Corp.'s 128-node, four-dimensional "hypercube," the iPSC, has caught the interest of, and a couple of orders from, U.S. Air Force Star Warriors. Bolt, Beranek and Newman is launching the Butterfly Machine, a cylindrical grid of closely coupled micros that almost throbs with parallel power. The see-through side panels of the exotic Connection Machine, sold by Thinking Machines Inc., Waltham, Mass., reveals hundreds of diagnostic diodes whose speckled red glow tells of bits buzzing by the billion between 64,000 one-bit processors.

--Guy

P.S. The author of this mishmash is named John Verity.

Date: Thu, 13 Aug 87 08:43:33 EDT
From: Michael Berry <mjab@Think.COM>
To: staff
Cc: mjab
Subject: As others see us...

The Economist has a special section on New England in the current issue which is peppered with quotes from Sheryl and references to our success. The cover of the section is yet another rip-off of the famous Steinberg New Yorker cover only this time it is MIT which looms large in the foreground with a tiny Harvard in its shadow and the rest of the country receding in the distance.

Here are a few quotes:

"Boston has book shops and orchestras, yes, but above al{, says Mr. Kapor, it has clever and varied people. Miss Sheryl Handler, founder of a futuristic company called Thinking Machines, echoes that. From Ohio herself, she considered the west coast but not for long: New England has less ruthless, more wholesome values and provides better support for the team spirit she wants in her company."

.
.
.

"They call it AI Alley and the people who work there are known as "hackers". Besneakerd and T-shirted, they work all hours of the night and some of the day as well, hunched over flickering Lisp Machines trying to work out how to make computers clever."

.
.
.

"Thinking Machines of Cambridge has built the most parallel computer in the world: with 65,000 separate processors working alongside each other, instead of the usual one plus a memory. According to Miss Handler, the customers' enthusiasm for the newest version, unveiled in April, is intense."{

.
.
.

"Thinking Machines typifies the bold risk-taking that makes New England work. In 1983, Miss Sheryl Handler, who knew nothing of computers but lots about setting up companies, persuaded some of sciences brightest brains to join the board of a company whose aim was to make a coy[uter thin -- however long it took. She also persuaded some wealthy individuals to put up the money, and grabbed a visionary graduate student from MIT called MR. Danny Hillis. Three years later, shw was selling the connection machine, which does not actually think yet. But if anybody can work out how to program it to do so, it probably will{"

Date: Thu, 13 Aug 87 13:30:09 edt
From: Michael Berry <mjab@Think.COM>
To: staff
In-Reply-To: Michael Berry's message of Thu, 13 Aug 87 08:43:33 EDT
Subject: As others see us...

I forgot to include the best quote about us in the whole
Economist article:

"Four hundred yards away [from Symbolics], Thinking Machines
makes Connection Machines, sinister black boxes that are to
computers as cars were to bicycles."

--MJAB

Rootbeer

Date: Mon, 28 Sep 87 11:26:57 EDT
From: nesheim
To: judy@Think.COM, stiles
Cc: staff

From stiles@Think.COM Tue Sep 22 08:41:29 1987
Date: Tue, 22 Sep 87 08:36:43 EDT
From: stiles
To: judy@Think.COM
Cc: staff

> From: judy@Think.COM
> Date: Tue, 22 Sep 87 08:14:15 EDT
>
> We are going through Diet Coke at a great rate -- does anyone care if we take out root beer and have two Diet Coke spaces on the machine?
> Judy

I think we should time share the root beer slot between root beer and diet coke. All we would need is a few hacks to the coke routine to enable us to handle the queuing of root beer requests, and of course some error checking and handling routines in case things got out of sync. Trivial.

"trivial", huh! The coke program has no idea WHAT you're getting when you send $$ to the machine. A whole pile of new hardware would be needed to do this.

Date: Tue, 22 Sep 87 12:39:16 EDT
From: pat
To: stiles
Cc: judy@Think.COM, staff

> Date: Tue, 22 Sep 87 08:36:43 EDT
> From: stiles
>
> > From: judy@Think.COM
> > Date: Tue, 22 Sep 87 08:14:15 EDT
> >
> > We are going through Diet Coke at a great rate -- does anyone care if we take out root beer and have two Diet Coke spaces on the machine?
> > Judy
>
> I think we should time share the root beer slot between root beer and diet coke. All we would need is a few hacks to the coke routine to enable us to handle the queuing of root beer requests, and of course some error checking and handling routines in case things got out of sync. Trivial.

No, no, no!!!

We should hook up retina scanning hardware and pattern recognition software, and then we'll KNOW what the user wants, and won't have to have an MRP system for Diet Coke!!

Pat***SPH

To: judy@Think.COM
Cc: staff, bradley
In-Reply-To: Your message of Tue, 22 Sep 87 08:14:15 EDT.
Date: Tue, 22 Sep 87 13:35:55 EDT
From: Bradley C. Kuszmaul <bradley>

> From: judy@Think.COM
> Date: Tue, 22 Sep 87 08:14:15 EDT
> We are going through Diet Coke at a great rate -- does anyone care if we take out root beer and have two Diet Coke spaces on the machine?
> Judy

I vote that we do this
current root beer slot becomes a diet-coke slott
current ginger-ale slot becomes an alternating ginger-ale root-beer slot
That way the root beer and gingerale customers can get what they want 50% of the time on the first try and 50% of the time on the second try. We should reduce the price of the root-beer/ginger-ale slot so that the expected value of getting what you want is correct. Thus if the price of buying something out of the root-beer/ginger-ale slot is X the expected price of getting what you want is

1.5 * X

Thus if the current price of coke is 45 cents (I don't really know the current price, but there is a guess) we should set the price at 30 cents for the root-beer ginger-ale slot.

This scheme is to the coke-machine what macdraw is to the macintosh.
"what you get is what you get"

-Brad

Date: Wed, 23 Sep 87 07:56 EDT
From: George Robertson <George@Aquinas.Think.COM>
Subject: diet coke
To: pat@Think.COM, stiles@Think.COM
Cc: judy@Think.COM, staff@Think.COM

> Date: Tue, 22 Sep 87 12:39 EDT
> From: pat@Think
>
> > Date: Tue, 22 Sep 87 08:36:43 EDT
> > From: stiles
> >
> > > From: judy@Think.COM
> > > Date: Tue, 22 Sep 87 08:14:15 EDT
> > >
> > > We are going through Diet Coke at a great rate -- does anyone care if we take out root beer and have two Diet Coke spaces on the machine?
> > > Judy
> >
> > I think we should time share the root beer slot between root beer and diet coke. All we would need is a few hacks to the coke routine to enable us to handle the queuing of root beer requests, and of course some error checking and handling routines in case things got out of sync. Trivial.
>
> No, no, no!!!
>
> We should hook up retina scanning hardware and pattern recognition software, and then we'll KNOW what the user wants, and won't have to have an MRP system for Diet Coke!!
>
> Pat***SPH

How about a scale and height scanner. If you are overweight for your height, then it will ONLY give you diet coke!

George

To: stiles
Cc: judy@Think.COM, staff, bradley
In-Reply-To: Your message of Tue, 22 Sep 87 08:36:43 EDT.
Date: Tue, 22 Sep 87 13:45:16 EDT
From: Bradley C. Kuszmaul <bradley>

> From: stiles
> Date: Tue, 22 Sep 87 08:36:43 EDT
> From: judy@Think.COM
> Date: Tue, 22 Sep 87 08:14:15 EDT
>
> We are going through Diet Coke at a great rate -- does anyone care if we
> take out root beer and have two Diet Coke spaces on the machine?
> Judy

> I think we should time share the root beer slot between root beer and
> diet coke. All we would need is a few hacks to the coke routine to
> enable us to handle the queuing of root beer requests, and of course
> some error checking and handling routines in case things got out of
> sync. Trivial.

I can just see it now
"Root Beer FIFO Timeout error. This may indicate a hardware or software
fault. Please contact Thinking Machines Corporation. You may
be able to figure out what is wrong from the following information:

```
COKE-P            1
BEER-P            0
HOST-TIMEOUT-BEER-P 0

ROOT-BEER Registers:
 0  3  5  3 77
32  3  4 43  2

Ingrediants:  Monosodium Fizzate,  Bicarbinate Blorpophate, Artificial
 Chemicals, (ingrediant summary abbreviated due to long words)

ROOT-BEER Error on Can A-27

RB:WAIT-FOR-ROOT-BEER-FIFO --> RB:WAIT-FOR-ROOT-BEER-SAFELY -->
 RB:WAIT-FOR-ROOT-BEER-THEN-PUT-IN-NICKLES --> RB:GET-A-ROOT-BEER -->
 RB:GET-SODA-FROM-MENU
...
```

Or how about the error
"The ROOT-BEER World you specified can not be built"
signaled by
RBI:BUILD-ROOT-BEER-WORLD

MOM

From: judy@Think.COM
Message-Id: <8708072000.AA02055@godot.think.com>
To: staff
Date: Fri, 07 Aug 87 16:00:06 EDT

On Monday morning Michael McGarty will join us as our facilities engineer.

His responsibilities will include HVAC, plumbing and electrical problems -- that means that if anything overheats, leaks, clogs, or falls in, call him. His extension will be 246 and he will be located on the 6th floor near the computer room. It will be easier for all of us to have someone who can fix the problem while you are explaining it to him. Personally, my only regret is that I'm retiring from handling the above areas without ever seeing the inside of the men's room -- not that I wasn't invited on many occasions.
Judy

Date: Wed, 28 Oct 87 02:53 EST
From: salem@godot.think.com
Sender: massar@godot.think.com
To: suggestions@godot.think.com

The microwave seems to have disappeared.
My sticky buns are cold.

What's up ?

-- jim

Wanted:

From: joanne@Think.COM
To: bboard
Cc: joanne
Date: Tue, 15 Sep 87 17:34:29 EDT

Here's your chance to get something for nothing... and all you have to do is answer the following question correctly:

Which would you rather come home to after a hard day (or day and night) at work?

(a) a bat swooping down at you
(b) a mouse scurrying across your kitchen
(c) an adorable, cuddly kitten which could rid you of (a) and (b)
(d) Mel Gibson or Kathleen Turner

If you answered (a) or (b), you're obviously a very bizarre individual -- try to get some professional help (or come to my apartment and take my unwanted pets home with you).
If you answered (d), I agree, but did you really think I could arrange this? I mean, I'm pretty amazing, but if I had access to Mel Gibson I certainly wouldn't send him to someone else's house!
If you were brilliant enough to answer (c), you're an incredibly lucky person. It just so happens that I know of two a-DOR-able kittens looking for homes. One is black with white paws and face; the other is calico-colored. They're 9 weeks old, one male, one female. These are kittens you'll fall in love with upon seeing.

So, if you're at all interested, send no money (of course, that could be arranged too!), just send me mail or call (x335). Operators are standing by.

-joanne

From: mcgehee@Think.COM
To: joanne@Think.COM
Cc: mcgehee, janet, ski
Subject: Re: ski bunnies
In-Reply-To: Your message of Wed, 21 Oct 87 13:54:09 EDT.
Date: Wed, 21 Oct 87 14:46:01 EDT

> a certain person from the marketing group who shall remain nameless is not on the ski mailing list, but thinks that she would like to go on the ski trip. However, this short-haired blond has never skied before. Understandably, she does not want to be alone when she terrorizes the bunny slopes and eventually graduates to the horizontal-snowplow-back-and-forth-across-the-black-diamond-trails-to-irritate-and-cutoff-serious-skiers method of skiing. So, is there anyone else out there who would be interested in joining this ski bunny on this guaranteed-not-to-be-boring adventure? If so, you can send me mail and I'll forward it to Janet.
>
> -joanne

A certain person in the systems group who is endowed with plenty of bravery and patience and is looking for a good deed to do is willing to "bunny-sit" this marketing athletic wonder in an adventure into the laws of gravity. Of course, practice is needed, and if this person wishes to practice a few times before embarassing herself in front of fellow employees, I am planning to spend a few nights at Mt. Wachusett gearing up for my debut in front of fellow employees, followed by hot toddies and chili at my house. If this person hasn't broken her leg, and has some friends, this could well turn into a party.

(in other words, I'll ski with you Janet, then come over for dinner and bring everybody)

--nancy

Wonderful Employee Awards

Date: Mon, 29 Jun 87 18:02 EDT
From: Barry Margolin <barmar@aquinas.think.com>
Subject: Acknowledgment of the Week Award
To: Steve Goldhaber <goldy@aquinas.think.com>
Cc: staff@think.com

> The author acknowledges the communications with Craig Stanfill of Thinking Machines Inc., who graciously provided additional data and information regarding the original paper. Bruce Nemnich, Guru of Thinking Machines, Inc. . . .

That's what it says on Bruce's business cards.

Now, if only he'd gotten the name of the company correct....

barmar

From: pat@think.com
Message-Id: <8706301814.AA08622@godot.think.com>
To: staff
Cc: pat
Subject: C* course tomorrow from 4-6pm in 5th flr conf rm
Date: Tue, 30 Jun 87 14:14:09 EDT

On Wednesday, July 1, the by-now-quite-well-renowned Sam Kendall will give the first of a series of talks on the C* ("C star") programming language. It is rumored that refreshments will be available. The course will be given in the 5th floor conference room starting at 4pm, and will last two hours (that means it will end at 6pm).

Background:
C* is an extension of the C programming language to allow high-level programming of the Connection Machine. It is another fabulous product from the glorious Thinking Machines Corporation, and, as such, will be used widely and wisely by the entire world, or else.

Instructor:
Mr. Sam Kendall has been with Thinking Machines Corporation since its inception in 1923. Since that time, Mr. Kendall has delivered such notable advances as the first chocolate transistor (with, unfortunately, a very short lifespan), the first use of the term "meltdown" (in relation to the transistor previously described), and the world's first solar powered obnoxious talking shoelace ("Who taught you how to dress, you maggot! Tie your shoe!!"). His advances have not been limited to science, but span the realm of understanding. This is indicated by Mr. Kendall's stellar research on the meaning of life, verifying the as yet unproven landmark result 42.
Mr. Kendall was also part of the design team for the Oh_Say_Can_You_View_The_Milky_Way? programming language, the direct predecessor of the C* (Yes,I see it!) language.
Please give Mr. Kendall a warm and sincere welcome.

From: joanne@Think.COM
To: staff
Cc: joanne
Subject: MAN OF STEEL
Date: Tue, 13 Oct 87 11:36:59 EDT

Thinking Machines has its very own Superman ...

Gary Rancourt not only completed the IRON MAN TRIATHALON (2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike, 26 mile run) on Saturday, but he did so with a great time: 10 hours, 47 minutes!

He placed 12th (!!!) in his age group and 228th overall (that's out of 1400 entrants from 38 countries!!)

This, after his shoulder operation in May!! (give me a break!)

Congratulations, Gary! We're all in awe!

How to Make Up a Game Without Really Trying

From: gary
To: staff
Subject: useful new program installed
Date: Fri, 11 Sep 87 12:21:43 EDT

"spew" will automatically generate a National Enquirer headline, like
the following:

Woman Sees Face Of Bhudda In a Tostada.

"I Am The Reincarnation of Atilla the Hun", Claims Bob Dylan.

Game Show Host's Bizarre Claim: "German AI Experts Planted Mind Control Device In My Head".

TV Personality Goes Berserk And Kills Thirty-Five Swiss Pediatricians With Phased Plasma Rifle.

"Does The Wizard of Oz Exist?" Soviet Physicists Offer New Evidence.

The source code is in /usr/src/local/cmd/spew. spew works like a reverse
version of yacc, which means that you can teach it to generate other
kinds of text by supplying an appropriate grammar.

From: Adam Greenberg <moose@Aquinas.Think.COM>
Subject: An offer you can't refuse
To: joanne@Think.COM, bboard@Think.COM

Here's your chance to get someone for nothing ... and all you have to do is answer the following question correctly:

Who would you rather come home to after a hard day (or day and night, or day and night and day ...) at work:

(a) someone batty, swooping at you [Consider the author, for instance].
(b) someone mousy scurrying around in the kitchen.
(c) The adorable, warm, cuddly Joanne [who is neither (a) or (b)].
(d) Mel Gibson or Kathleen Turner

If you answered (a) or (b), you deserve each other. You're probably weirder than I am. Well, maybe only possibly weirder than I am. In any case, seek professional help - or just ask our marketing people - they'll be glad to tell you you're weird.

If you answered (d), you agree with Joanne. But lets be serious. Would you really want Mel Gibson in your home? I mean, do you know what a man can do to a house? Do you think he'll pick up after himself? Or take out the garbage? My god, imagine what the bathroom will be like! Or Kathleen Turner. Pantyhose all over the place. Cosmetics cluttering up your medicine cabinet - covering all the shelf space. 2000 pairs of shoes in your closet ... Let's be real here. Anyway, I'm not about to go out and get you either Mel Gibson or Kathleen Turner. Ok, so I'm not as amazing as Joanne. Tough.

If you were brilliant enough to answer (c), you're an incredibly lucky person. It just so happens that I know of one a-DOR-able Joanne looking for ... Well, you can ask her what she's looking for. She's kinda small, has dark hair and freckles, a pretty face, and a warm sensitive nature (She'll also put you in your place if your not careful, buster!). She plays a mean shortstop (doubleplays? No problem) and is the life of every party. She's 26 years old, female, and she's the kind you fall in love with upon seeing.

So, if you're at all interested, send no money (if you do it will go to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Moose - he's going to need it after this), just send mail or call (x335). Or, for further details, just contact your nearest Marketing representative. This offer void where prohibited.

- moose

Received: by godot.think.com; Thu, 25 Jun 87 15:45:59 EDT
From: joanne@think.com
To: staff
Subject: The Janet MacLaren Photo Captioning Contest
Date: Thu, 25 Jun 87 15:45:54 EDT

We have a winner! It was tough to choose, but Judge Bailey, after days of deliberating, has come up with a winner in the Janet MacLaren Photo Captioning Contest... this is the moment you've all been waiting for ... the winning caption is ... a drumroll, please ...

"Sheryl asked me to check the color scheme of the new matrix boards." by MJAB

CONGRATULATIONS, MICHAEL BERRY! If you'll "come on down" to the marketing area we'd like to present you with your prize: your very own boxed set of authentic Thinking Machines Corporation notecards!

Whoa! This is unbelievable, you're saying. But wait, there's more... if you pick up your prize before midnight tonight you'll also receive a photocopy of the photo and caption that brought you to fame.

Again, Michael, Congratulations!

For those of you who missed the contest poster, there were many other humorous quotes, including:

"Janet MacLaren, seen here warming up, is hoping to raise $64,000 in next week's Celebrity/Pro-Am Charity Nose Push. Donors backing Ms. MacLaren will pledge $1.00 per processor for every mile she pushes this CM-2 with her nose. Proceeds will go to the National Proboscis and Facial Surgery Institute." --Moose

"The CM-2's innovative I/O allows knowledge to be DIRECTLY TRANSFERRED from the user's brain without cumbersome keyboards and screens, as shown here. -- Straz

"Frankly, Julia, I don't care what Auntie Sheryl said you could do."
__Anonymous, but we know it's Jim Bailey's handwriting

If anyone wishes to see the final poster, a small piece of chocolate is probably all it would take to convince Janet to show it to you.

Yours in creative photography,
- joanne

P.S. -- Sorry, Ted!

Date: Thu, 23 Jul 87 18:51 EDT
From: Barry Margolin <barmar@think.com>
Subject: mail header of the week
To: staff@think.com

Combine Unix's problems parsing some header address formats with an address sorter, and you get ....

------Begin Forwarded Message------
Date: Thu, 23 Jul 87 16:37:02 EDT
From: nesheim@zarathustra.think.com
To: bradley@zarathustra.think.com
Subject: Re: lw2
Cc: Apparently@Think.COM, I@Think.COM, The@Think.COM, a@Think.COM,
ahold@Think.COM, and@Think.COM, another@Think.COM, appletalk@Think.COM,
apq@Think.COM, been@Think.COM, bradley@zarathustra.think.com,
do@Think.COM, error@Think.COM, get@Think.COM, gets@Think.COM,
goofs@Think.COM, have@Think.COM, if@Think.COM, in@Think.COM,
is@Think.COM, job@Think.COM, middle@Think.COM, my@Think.COM,
observing@Think.COM, of@Think.COM, or@Think.COM, output@Think.COM,
page@Think.COM, print@Think.COM, printer@Think.COM, probably@Think.COM,
problem., real@Think.COM, reason@Think.COM, somehow@Think.COM,
sometimes@Think.COM, systems@zarathustra.think.com, that@Think.COM,
the@Think.COM, then@Think.COM, things@Think.COM, think@Think.COM,
this@Think.COM, timeout@Think.COM, two@Think.COM, up., which@Think.COM

[body deleted]
-------End Forwarded Message-------

Actually, this gives me a neat idea for a word puzzle: scramble or alphabetize the words in a sentence, and challenge people to reconstruct it.

barmar

Date: Fri, 24 Jul 87 10:22 EDT
From: Guy Steele <gls@aquinas.think.com>
Subject: Sentence puzzle
To: barmar@think.com
Cc: staff@think.com
In-Reply-To: <870723185101.2.BARMAR@NIETZSCHE.THINK.COM>

Actually,thisgivesmeaneatideaforawordpuzzle:scrambleor
alphabetizethewordsinasentence,andchallengepeopletoreconstruct
it.

Date: Fri, 24 Jul 87 10:24 EDT
From: Guy Steele <gls@aquinas.think.com>
Subject: Sentence puzzle
To: barmar@think.com
Cc: staff@think.com
In-Reply-To: <870723185101.2.BARMAR@NIETZSCHE.THINK.COM>

a a a actually alphabetize and challenge for gives idea in it me neat or
people puzzle reconstruct scramble sentence the this to word words

Whadda we gonna name this?

Date: Fri, 17 Jul 87 15:55 EDT
From: David Douglas <douglas@aquinas.think.com>
Subject: Re: dialnet lines
To: mcgehee@think.com, nesheim@think.com
Cc: systems@godot.think.com

> Date: Fri, 17 Jul 87 13:33:57 EDT
> From: mcgehee@think.com
>
> From stiles@think.com Fri Jul 17 07:43:33 1987
> Date: Fri, 17 Jul 87 07:43:15 EDT
> From: stiles@think.com
> To: bruce@godot.think.com
> Cc: systems@godot.think.com, toto@godot.think.com
> Subject: dialnet lines
>
> > Date: Thu, 16 Jul 87 21:27 EDT
> > From: Bruce Nemnich <bruce@godot.think.com>
> >
> > I didn't see an airport name on the 6th machine room. May I suggest
> > National, as it is small, close to all the bigwigs, and as they say,
> > "an accident waiting to happen."
> >
> > --bruce
>
> We had thought about that, but decided that Orly, the airport
> that serves the cultural center of the universe (Paris), was a
> better name for it.
> Yes?
> Jim

I vote for "National"

> me too
> --nancy

I object to naming machine rooms after airports because I had a
bad experience in an airport as a small child. I'd much rather
see them named after famous acrobats. I'll start a list of them in the
sixth floor kitchen.

-dd :+)

Date: Thu, 25 Jun 87 15:19 EDT
From: Barry Margolin <barmar@aquinas.think.com>
Subject: New Lisp Machine names
To: lispm-users@think.com
Cc: staff@think.com

When our new batch of Lisp Machines arrive, we will hit the end of the alphabet is our current series of philosopher names, so we have to start a new name scheme. Jim Stiles's idea is to name them after monsters. If you object to this strongly, please let me know; however, you must include an alternate suggestion.

If we go with monster names, we have one minor problem: neither Jim nor I can think of a monster whose name begins with A. We will initially have four machines using the new naming scheme. We've thought of Big Foot, Creature from the Black Lagoon, and Dracula for B, C, and D, but our minds are blank when it comes to A (also, for future planning, we can't think of an E monster, either).

If you want to suggest an alternate naming convention, please try to make it one that we should be able to come up with an alphabetful of names from. It's not absolutely clear that we will make it to the next Z, but there's always wishful thinking.

barmar

Date: Fri, 26 Jun 87 10:39:54 EDT
From: marshall@zarathustra.think.com
To: barmar
Subject: Name Calling
Cc: marshall, staff

Hey sports fans, since we already have some offices named for ballparks,
how about machines named for baseball players.

We could put Yaz in Fenway Park, DiMaggio and Mantle in Yankee Stadium,
Rice in Left Field, etc.

We could name the file servers after pitchers as they deliver the data,
and have famous double play combinations as members of subnets.
Think of data moving from Tinker to Evans to Chance (?).

There is easy expansion to later naming schemes (football, basketball,
hockey, ...).

--Marshall

Date: Fri, 26 Jun 87 11:59 EDT
From: Dan Aronson <Dan@aquinas.think.com>
Subject: naming of machines
To: staff@think.com

How about famous transvestites (Drag-net)??

--Dan and Durward

Date: Fri, 26 Jun 87 14:48 EDT
From: DONNA@aquinas.think.com
Subject: NAME-CALLING -- MOUNTAINS!!!
To: staff@think.com

> Date: Fri, 26 Jun 87 07:34:04 EDT
> From: charrett@zarathustra.think.com
>
> I second Adam's idea for naming machines after beers.
> Good idea Adam.
>
> --- Ted ---

How about Mountains!!!!
-donna

CHANGES ARE POSSIBLE, TED PROPOSES A THAT A VOTING SYSTEM BE SET UP.

ANNAPURNA -ALT 26,503 IN NEPAL, HARDEST MOUNTAIN IN THE WORLD TO CLIMB
BLANC -ALT 15,781 FRENCH ALPS
CAMEROON -ALT 13,370 GUESS WHERE
DYKH-TAU -ALT 17,054 IN THE CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS (SOVIET UNION) (MIKE'S FAV.)
EVEREST -ALT 29,028 HIGHEST IN THE WORLD (IN NEPAL-TIBET)
FUJI -ALT 12,395 JAPAN, EVERYONE'S FAV.
GODWIN AUSTEN (K2) -ALT 28,250 IN KASHMIR IN THE KARAKORAM RANGE
HOOD -ALT 11,253 CASCADE RANGE
IDA -ALT 8,193 IN CRETE
JUNGFRAU -ALT 13,668 IN SWITZERLAND
KILIMANJARO -ALT 19,321 IN TANZANIA,
LASSENS PEAK -ALT 10,465 IN SIERRAS
MATTERHORN -ALT 14,780 SWISS ALPS
NEVADA DE COLIMA -ALT 14,235 MEXICO
OLYMPUS -ALT 9730 IN GREECE
PICO -ALT 7,611 IN PORTUGAL
QUATTRE-SCHNAUZEN -ALT 11,343 "MOUNTAIN OF FOUR NOSES" SWISS ALPS
RAINIER -ALT 14,408 IN WASHINGTON STATE
SHASTA -ALT 14,161 IN SIERRAS
TAHAT -ALT 9585 ALGERIA
UNCOMPAHGRE PEAK -ALT 14,301 SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS
VICTORIA -ALT 13,204 OWEN STANLEY RANGE, AUSTRALIA
WEISSHORN -ALT 14,804 ALPS
XITACUATL -ALT 12,693 "SOUNDS MEXICAN" MEXICAN ALPS
YAKEDAKE -ALT 8,064 JAPAN, CENTRAL HONSHU
ZUGSPITZE -ALT 9738 IN THE BAVARIAN MTNS (GERMANY)

I HEREBY CHANGE MY VOTE FROM AUTHORS TO MOUNTAINS OF THE WORLD
-----DONNA
I HEREBY CHANGE MY VOTE FROM BEERS OF THE WORLD TO MOUNTAINS OF THE WORLD --- TED -----
I HEREBY CHANGE MY VOTE FROM MOVIE KEY GRIPS TO MOUNTAINS OF THE WORLD
-----MIKE

ALSO A PART OF THIS DECISION WERE (IN ALPHABETIC ORDER)
BILL
ROBERT
STEVIE

Date: Fri, 26 Jun 87 11:06:44 EDT
From: shn@zarathustra.think.com
To: shn@zarathustra.think.com, staff
Subject: Another stupid message about computer names

...The one comment that came out of the last debate on computer names was something along the lines of...

'let the system poeple decide on the names, its the only creative thing they get to for weeks at a time'

So I say, let the software people name the subroutines whatever they like, let the hardware people call their chips and boards whatever they like, let the marketing people give the products whatever names they like and let the systems people call their computers whatever names they like.
....

Thanks You

Sam N

Graffiti
or
We've Been Bad Boys Again

Received: from descartes by Think.COM via CHAOS; Mon, 1 Jun 87 18:30:45 EDT
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 87 18:28 EDT
From: David Douglas <douglas@aquinas.think.com>
Subject: We've been bad boys again ....
To: judy@think.com, staff@think.com
In-Reply-To: <8706011848.AA13295@godot.think.com>
Message-Id: <870601182811.8.DOUGLAS@DESCARTES.THINK.COM>

> Date: Mon, 01 Jun 87 14:48:03 EDT
> From: judy@think.com
>
> Men -- please don't write graffiti on the walls of the bathroom stalls --
> this is not the New York subway system.
> Thank you for your cooperation.
> Judy

Judy,
If this is a real problem, I suggest we make a new mailing list
mens-room@think.com and we can just mail the grafitti to each other.

-dd :-)

>From willie@think.com Mon Jun 1 21:40:54 1987
Received: by Think.COM; Mon, 1 Jun 87 21:40:54 EDT
From: Willie Lim <willie@think.com>
Message-Id: <8706020140.AA15988@Think.COM>
To: charrett@zarathustra.think.com, judy
Cc: staff
Subject: Re: Restrooms
In-Reply-To: Your message of Mon, 01 Jun 87 15:57:17 EDT.
<8706011957.AA03009@urania.think.com>
Date: Mon, 01 Jun 87 21:40:51 EDT

> From: charrett@zarathustra.think.com
>
> > From: judy@think.com
> >
> > Men -- please don't write graffiti on the walls of the bathroom
> > stalls -- this is not the New York subway system. Thank you for
> > your cooperation. Judy
>
> If you keep peeking in the mens room, we men will have to step up
> our patrols of the ladies room.
>
> > --- Ted ---

(-: Hmm, with patrols going back and forth, we don't need to segregate the restrooms anymore. By then men won't be the only ones to blame for the handwriting on the walls. :-)

Willie

cc: graffiti@z

Received: from eligius by Think.COM via CHAOS; Wed, 3 Jun 87 08:50:03 EDT
Date: Wed, 3 Jun 87 08:48 EDT
From: J.P. Massar <massar@godot.think.com>
Subject: Meta-Graffitti
To: staff@godot.think.com
Message-Id: <870603084801.1.MASSAR@ELIGIUS.THINK.COM>

Do not to walk across the
bathroom walls with your bare feet as this
smudges the graffitti and turns the rugs
funny colors.

This public service message brought to you
by the TMC Bathroom Surveillence Committee,
in the interest of healthier and more
interesting bathroom forays.

Received: from anaximander by Think.COM via CHAOS; Wed, 3 Jun 87 13:34:50 EDT
Date: Wed, 3 Jun 87 13:32 EDT
From: Mike Drumheller <MIKE@aquinas.think.com>
Subject: Meta-Graffitti
To: massar@godot.think.com, staff@godot.think.com
In-Reply-To: <870603084801.1.MASSAR@ELIGIUS.THINK.COM>
Message-Id: <870603133234.2.MIKE@ANAXIMANDER.THINK.COM>

Men:

Do not try to ride your toilets from Penn Station to the Bronx. They are not the New York subway system.

Lost & Found

Date: Thu, 19 Nov 87 11:52:21 EST
From: goldy@Think.COM
To: rst@Think.COM
Cc: staff@Think.COM
In-Reply-To: rst@Think.COM's message of Thu, 19 Nov 87 11:27:11 est
Subject: walkman found

> Date: Thu, 19 Nov 87 11:27:11 est
> From: rst@Think.COM
>
> It's a Sony with FM and AM, a CrO2/the-usual-junk tape mode switch, and three sliders on the front which are separate volume controls for low/mid/high, in addition to the usual volume control on top.
>
> Either that, or I lost my walkman...
>
> rst

Ok, rst is the winner. No more guesses from the peanut gallery. Of course, since rst was inconsiderate enough to reply to staff (thus further cluttering up our mail system) and since anyone can now correctly identify the walkman, rst better get here in a hurry.

goldy

The TMC Athletic Department

TMC jocks at play

To: charrett
Cc: softball, parish
Subject: Re: Game Friday
In-Reply-To: Your message of Sun, 23 Aug 87 13:31:40 EDT.

Date: Mon, 24 Aug 87 08:40:56 EDT
From: Ed Parish <parish@Think.COM>

Date: Sun, 23 Aug 87 13:31:40 EDT
From: charrett
Message-Id: <8708231731.AA02392@aragorn.think.com>
To: softball
Subject: Game Friday

Softball has become too much fun. As a result, too many people are coming to
the games. To help reduce the number of people at future games, please try not to have so much fun.

--- We thank you for your support, Say thank you Ed. ---
Ed doesn't want to talk right now.
Dammit Ed say something.

"Sore loser."
--ed

Received: by Godot.Think.COM; Wed, 18 Feb 87 10:26:14 EST
Date: Wed, 18 Feb 87 10:26:14 EST
From: stiles (Jim Stiles)
To: bboard, gsmith@symbolics.com
Subject: bowling

Spread the word! The glorious, triumphant bowling team is going to have a meeting this Friday evening. We haven't figured out where yet, and we haven't figured out what we are celebrating (the first item of business on the agenda), but what the hell - we're winners (yow)! Maybe that's enough reason to celebrate.

Second order of business - HATS! I will be accepting orders. Be a Zeta Pi! Join the world's first bowling frarority - ZPI - and become a pinhead. All you need is a hat! A bargain at twice the price! Closed on Thursdays!

The coach

Received: by Godot.Think.COM; Wed, 18 Feb 87 12:47:59 EST
Date: Wed, 18 Feb 87 12:47:59 EST
From: sam (Sam Kendall)
To: stiles
Cc: bboard, gsmith@symbolics.com
In-Reply-To: Jim Stiles's message of Wed, 18 Feb 87 10:26:14 EST
Subject: bowling

Mr. Stiles uses the adjective "triumphant" in refererence to our bowling team. (I prefer the appellation "Bowling Club," but that is another story.) Now, since our team has yet to engage in a contest of any kind whatsoever, the point suggests itself that perhaps Mr. Stiles could be accused of semantic looseness. But, O boon companions, far be it from me to suggest anything of the sort! For when I heroically recline among the empty beer glasses and your esteemed company, I recall our glorious undefeated season of 1986, and tears, yes gentlemen and ladies, actual tears of come to my eyes.

--Mr. Kendall

Introducing.....

Date: Tue, 28 Apr 87 13:01 EDT
From: Steve Goldhaber <goldy@aquinas.think.com>
Subject: quote of the day
To: staff@aquinas.think.com

While standing in front of VAX 8800, trying to muffle out the computer's noise so that the seismic presentation can be heard, Dave Wells said:

Friday I worked as an engineer.
Sunday I worked as an interior designer.
And today I am a wall.
It's digressing quickly here.

- shaw

Date: Sun, 26 Apr 87 02:11:53 EDT
From: braca@zarathustra.think.com
To: staff
Subject: Song lyric of the day

"If we weren't crazy
We'd be insane by now."

Date: Mon, 27 Apr 87 14:03 EDT
From: kahle@aquinas.think.com
Sender: goldy@aquinas.think.com
Subject: quotation of the day
To: staff@aquinas.think.com

"The broken micros work"

-jim lalone

*** CAROLS FOR AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION ***

BREAK FORTH, O BEAUTEOUS HEAVENLY LIGHT

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning;
Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, but hear the angel's warning.
This child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,
The power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

THE FIRST NOWELL

The first Nowell, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell, Nowell,
Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King
of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

Then entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there, in his presence,
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold.
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heav'ns all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still thro' the cloven skies they came,
With peaceful wings unfurl'd.
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

For lo! the days are hast'ning on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever circling years,
Shall come the time foretold,
When the new heav'n and earth shall own
The Prince of Peace their King,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

GOD REST YE, MERRY GENTLEMEN

God rest ye, merry gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ, our Savior,
Was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
Doth bring redeeming grace.
O tidings of comfort and joy.

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
Which inspire your heavenly song.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

JOY TO THE WORLD!

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods,
rocks, hills and plains
Repeat their sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
Thy everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

DECK THE HALLS

Deck the halls with boughs of holly,
'Tis the season to be jolly,
Don we now our gay apparel,
Troll the ancient yule-tide carol.

See the blazing yule before us,
Strike the harp and join the chorus,
Follow me in merry measure,
While I tell of yule-tide treasure.

Fast away the old year passes,
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses,
Sing we joyous all together,
Heedless of the wind and weather.
***Fa la la la la la la la la!**

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

Christ by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.